



EMPOWERING WOMEN
SINCE 1881

San Antonio Branch NewsLetter

NOVEMBER 2013 Vol 105 • Issue 7

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

When I joined the West Harris County (Houston) AAUW branch 15 years ago, branch members extensively used the acronyms EE, LAF and EYH, which almost sounded like gibberish to a newcomer. Within days, I was on the EYH steering committee and quickly learned that EYH translated to **Expanding Your Horizons**, the topic of our November program.

The West Harris County branch, who began sponsoring an EYH conference in 1992, is now one of five branches in Texas that host an annual Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) conference. Branch members plan, coordinate and execute the EYH conference for over 450 Houston-area middle school girls and their parents, teachers and counselors. Serving as an EYH volunteer was always rewarding and memorable, as the EHY goal is to interest and encourage young women to study math, science and technology by showing them the benefits of education and its relevance to their lives.

I have to confess I clip articles for potential future reference. While a few clippings eventually are filed or used, most turn yellow with age and end up being recycled. Last week, I clipped the Letters to the Editor page from the current issue of Southwest Airline's *Spirit* magazine with the following statement referring to an August article on education: "*When students can Google answers to almost any question, what is the purpose of education? The piece provides the correct answer: Teach students to think.*"

The comment reminded me of Vanessa Hurd (the Executive Director of the Children's Museum) telling us at the October meeting about educating children through offering opportunities for creative thinking. The August 2013 *Spirit* magazine's article entitled "Flipped Out" covered education in the digital age where educators must facilitate knowledge with the help of technology and innovations in education, or how the digital revolution is turning learning upside down. The link to the article if you are interested is: http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/pace/spirit_201308/#/74.
~Barbara Kyse

NOVEMBER MEETING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2013 • 11:00 am - 1:00 pm • **Pompeii Italian Grill**
16109 Nacogdoches Rd • 210-946-5518 • **Reservation deadline is Wednesday, October 30.**
Email your reservation to Kate Vettters at kvettters@sbcglobal.net. Or call Kate at 210-696-1804.

LUNCH • Cost is \$20 • Lunch selection will be a choice of:
• Grilled chicken, Lasagna, or Chicken Parmesan
• Eggplant Parmesan (for vegetarians)
Served with a salad and Cheesecake for dessert • Tea and coffee

PROGRAM EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS

Speaker Pamela Fink PhD, Assoc Professor, Chair of Computer Science, St. Mary's University

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS: A STEM CAREER CONFERENCE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

MISSION: Inspiring girls to recognize their potential and pursue opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics

Expanding Your Horizon (EYH) Network programs provide STEM role models and hands-on activities for middle and high school girls. The ultimate goal is to motivate girls to become innovative and creative thinkers ready to meet 21st century challenges. The EYH Network was begun in 1974 by an informal group of women scientists and educators who were concerned about low female participation in math courses. Currently, EYH conferences for girls are held in 31 states and in Europe and Asia.

San Antonio's one-day EYH conference scheduled on **Saturday, January 11, 2014** at the University of the Incarnate Word is designed to encourage girls to pursue science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers by providing approximately 400-500 girls with the opportunities to learn about STEM careers and to meet women actively engaged in non-traditional career fields. San Antonio's EYH focuses on middle school (6th- 8th grade) girls because research has shown that girls tend to lose interest in STEM subjects during those years. All girls in public, private, and even home schools from San Antonio and nearby districts are invited to attend this conference. Local support comes from volunteer educators, scientists, mathematicians, parents, and community leaders.

The day's schedule includes an opening plenary session with a keynote speaker, as well as two small workshops with relevant hands-on experience, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Lunch along with an activity is provided between the two workshops.

YOU CAN HELP

In order to hold this conference, the local EYH organization can use assistance in the following areas:

- Approximately 25 women are needed to conduct the hands-on workshops in their career field
- Funding to cover expenses and students' lunches • Publicizing the event
- Contacting middle school science/math teachers • Material for students' packets

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AAUW TEXTBOOK SCHOLARSHIP - \$500 VISA GIFT CARD

The fall fundraiser benefits our branch textbook scholarships awards to assist women attending a college or university in Bexar County with purchasing required academic text books. Remember to bring your checks and/or cash to the **November meeting at the Pompeii Grill** to purchase your tickets for the \$500 VISA gift card. Tickets are \$10 each or 3 for \$25.

The drawing for the VISA card will be held at our **December 7 meeting at Paloma Blanca**, just in time for holiday shopping. One does not have to be present at the December meeting or an AAUW member to purchase the tickets for our scholarship fund.

AAUW PUBLIC POLICY: GRASSROOTS EFFORTS FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING CLOSE TO HOME

AAUW members nationwide are leading efforts to fight human trafficking by starting petitions for legislative action, raising awareness, and working to prevent sex trafficking. Human trafficking disproportionately affects women and children. The Bureau of Justice Statistics estimates that 40 percent of all human trafficking incidents opened for investigation in the United States involve sex trafficking of a child. The bureau also reports that at least 80 percent of these child victims are U.S. citizens.

Though our efforts to combat human trafficking are growing, the focus is nothing new for AAUW members, whose grassroots efforts led to human trafficking first becoming a priority in AAUW's member-approved 2011–13 Public Policy Program. Members again approved human trafficking as part of the 2013–15 Public Policy Program, which includes the following language: *AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies against human trafficking and that promote peace, justice, human rights, sustainable development, and mutual security for all people.*

In accordance with this focus, AAUW helped pass a bipartisan reauthorization of the **Violence Against Women Act** that included human trafficking provisions. AAUW also supports the bipartisan **End Sex Trafficking Act**, which will help eliminate sex-trafficking organizations by targeting those who purchase sexual acts and by making certain that the law's language clearly states these criminals should be prosecuted as human traffickers. One year after President Barack Obama pledged that the United States would lead the fight against human trafficking, AAUW members are certainly doing their part. **Take action with us now.** *Extracted from post written by AAUW Public Policy Intern Katie Cole. (aauw.org/2013/10/08/grassroots-trafficking-fight)*

2012-2013

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PUBLIC PROGRAM HOSTED BY LWV SAN ANTONIO

Thursday, November 21 • 6 to 8 pm • Central Library

The League of Women San Antonio is hosting a program on **Human Trafficking** (AAUW members and guests are welcome to attend). They will have panelists discussing Prevention, Prosecution, and Protection. The LWV-Texas and local Leagues within the state have been studying this national and international problem to gain understanding of the issues in order to advocate for state laws pertaining to Human Trafficking. The program should be educational and enlightening.

THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY defines “Philanthropy” as goodwill to fellowmen through an active effort to promote human welfare or a philanthropic act or gift. While instances of philanthropy and charity frequently overlap, not all charity is philanthropy, or vice versa. One difference commonly cited is that charity relieves the pains of social problems, whereas philanthropy attempts to solve those problems at their root. All of which makes one wonder how philanthropy fits in with the AAUW Mission and Vision Statements.

The AAUW STRATEGIC PLAN adopted by the AAUW Board of Directors on June 27, 2010 includes the following strategies: **AAUW raises and distributes funds** for educational fellowships, grants, and programming to support advocacy, research, leadership development, and programs that break through educational and economic barriers affecting women. **AAUW strategically targets and supports** new directions in research on women and girls. **AAUW is the trusted beneficiary** of choice for giving from members, donors, partners, and other funding.

BRANCH DONATES 178 POUNDS OF FOOD TO SA FOOD BANK. Once again AAUW-San Antonio Branch has shown its generosity and concern for community. On Saturday, October 5, our members contributed **178 pounds of food**—everything from canned goods to peanut butter—to the San Antonio Food Bank. This was almost double what we donated at last year’s October meeting. The high protein foods you provided, such as canned meats and dried beans, will enable children to grow in body and mind. The rice and pasta will help parents stretch meals a little further. And the canned vegetables, fruits and juices will deliver the vitamins and minerals that promote better health for everyone. Because of you, families in the San Antonio area will enjoy greater food security. *Thank you.*

MOMENTS IN HISTORY – AAUW RESEARCH STUDIES

AAUW research draws national attention to issues of gender equity in education and the workplace; influences policy-makers as well as educators, parents, and students; and, most importantly, serves as a catalyst for action. **THE FIRST RESEARCH STUDY: Health Statistics of Women College Graduates.** In 1885, the ACA’s (later the AAUW) first research study surveyed the health and physical education of 1290 members (with 705 responses). The study published by the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor established that, contrary to prior statements made by a prominent Boston physician, higher education does not adversely affect the health of women college graduates. This was the first of a long line of studies, ranging from scientific observations of the development of infants (1890) to teaching about the UN in the public schools (1948) from the economic status of AAUW members in the depression (1936) to the taxation and financing of public education (1955), from members’ attitudes toward families (1938 and 1980) to the status of women in academe (1970 and 1976).

MOST CURRENT RESEARCH STUDY RELEASE: The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap (Fall 2013) Updated regularly with the most current statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau, *The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap* is a commonsense guide that provides key facts about the gender pay gap in the United States. Information on this study is available at the branch meetings, and the complete report is accessible on the National website.

CHAT-N-CHEW

Sunday, November 3, 2013 • 2:00 pm
 Contact Malinda Gaul 210-410-8992 or mgaul@satx.rr.com

CULINARY ADVENTURES

Thursday, November 21, 2013 • 11:30 am
 Location: **La Frite Belgian Bistro** (www.lafritesa.com)
 728 S. Alamo • 210-224-7555 • Contact Fran Vettters
 210-481-4508 or frankenvettters@sbcglobal.net

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

Wednesday, November 6, 2013 • 6:00 pm
 Location: **Max's Wine Dive** (www.maxswinedive.com)
 340 E. Basse Rd (Quarry Village) • 210-444-9547
 Contact Malinda Gaul 210-410-8992 or mgaul@satx.rr.com

HISTORIC SOUTHWEST

Saturday, November 9, 2013 • 12:00 pm
 Program: **The History and Mystery of the Menger Hotel**
 Speaker: Docia Williams: author, poet, professional tour guide
 Location: Doubletree Hotel at McCullough and Loop 410
 Contact: Sophie Lim (before Thursday, Nov 7)
 210-445-0654 or limsoph@gmail.com

NIGHT BRIDGE

Mondays, November 4 and 18, 2013 • 6:45 pm
 Location: **La Madeleine** at Park North (Lp 410 & Blanco)
 Contact Marilyn Traylor 210-696-8299 or mjanetray@yahoo.com

SATURDAY BOOK DISCUSSION

Saturday, November 9, 2013 • 10:00 am
 Book: **Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk** by Ben Fountain
 Location: Beverly Baucum's house • Contact Diantha Perelli
 210-497-4121 or cyclobabe1946@yahoo.com

WORLD AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP

Tuesday, November 4, 2013 • 10:00 am
 Topic: **China in Africa** (topic #7 in Great Decision 2013)
 Location: La Taza Coffee House, Brookhollow & Hwy 281
 Contact Margaret Mayberry at 210-496-5333
 or mfmayberry@aol.com

WANDERING WOMEN (two events)

- Friday, October 25, 2013 • 9:30 am
 Location: **Government Canyon State Natural Area**: Front Country • 12861 Galm Rd (west of 1604 & south of Helotes)
- Friday, November 22, 2013 • 9:30 am
 Location: **Historical and Architectural Walk of Downtown San Antonio**
 Contact: Nancy Fix Anderson for info, sign-up, carpooling
 210-370-9459 or Anderson@loyno.edu

INTEREST GROUP OF THE MONTH

AAUW WANDERING WOMEN

For 2013-14, the branch's *Wandering Women* have planned diverse, enjoyable and interesting walks to both historic and natural areas in and around San Antonio. Their **monthly Friday morning** walks start at **9:30 am** and will cover **approximately 3-4 miles**, at a moderate pace during the cooler months (late October - April). Afterwards, for those who wish, the group will lunch together at a casual place near each walk.

On Friday, October 25 at the beautiful Government Canyon State Natural Area (12861 Galm Road outside Helotes.), the group will walk through the woodlands over level paths in the natural area's Front Country.

Subsequent destinations will include historic and architectural walks around downtown San Antonio, the newly opened lower Mission Reach, the Cibolo Nature Center, and the Medina River Natural Area. All AAUW members and friends are welcome to join the Wandering Women for some or all of the walks.

For more information, to sign up and/or arrange carpooling, please contact Nancy Anderson at anderson@loyno.edu or 210-370-9459. On the morning of the walks, contact Nancy on her cell phone 210-833-1291.

AAUW FUNDS: ANN RICHARDS FUND

Branch members may already be aware, but just in case some are not, AAUW has a fund named for Ann Richards. According to the AAUW Texas website, in 2008 AAUW-Texas established a new Education Foundation fellowship fund in honor of former Governor Ann Richards. In October, 2008, the National AAUW EF board approved the Ann Richards American Fellowship and assigned **Fund Number 4324**. The purpose of this fund is to support women doctoral candidates completing dissertations and scholars seeking funds for post-doctoral research.

As a former teacher, county commissioner, state treasurer, and first woman elected to the office of governor in her own right, Ann Richards exemplified the AAUW mission. The \$200,000 required to fully fund this fellowship has not yet been met, so this year may be a good time for members of our Branch to help actualize this opportunity for women seeking their doctorates.

If you are interested in contributing to this fund, your **check payable to AAUW Funds with the designating fund number 4324** may given to our branch Treasurer or sent directly to the national office. Remember to designate fund number 4324 on your check. You may also contribute online via credit card option on the National website. Per the AAUW Texas Fall 2013 newsletter, there is now a new Ann Richards Fund landing page to make a direct donation: https://svc.aauw.org/contribute/index_aauw_donation.cfm?CorpCode=AAUW&fundcode=4324

COMMEMORATIVE PIN

Donors of \$100 (or more) will receive a beautiful Texas lone star on a field of red, white and blue, and philanthropy recognition for their Branch.

Contributions to this fund are fully tax deductible.

Jeanette Pierce, San Antonio branch, AAUW Funds Chair



WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT GIRLS?

OCTOBER 11, 2013. "At a meeting a few weeks ago, I heard that the future of the world rests in the hands of girls 10–15 years old. The cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and powerlessness continues if girls don't have the tools to escape their destiny."

— Melissa Guardaro, AAUW U.N. representative

We encourage members to regularly check our National AAUW website (www.aauw.org) for thoughtful and timely articles covering issues and topics ranging from Advocacy, Community, Education, Leadership and Economic Justice.